GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:27
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2009
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OF BANGLADESHIS
Chakraborty Shri Ajay;Dhanaraju Dr. K.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the porous borders and the illegal immigration are causing unexpected demographic changes among the native population of the country including Assam and West Bengal as reported in The Times of India dated 12 January, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to speed up fencing of the Indo-Bangladesh border; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 27 FOR 17.2.2009.

(a) & (b): India's long and porous border with Bangladesh, geographical proximity, family ties and ethnic similarity, coupled with better economic opportunities in India have resulted in illegal migration from Bangladesh. While specific data of illegal immigration is not available, given the clandestine nature of the activity, the possibility of demographic changes in some of the border districts can not be ruled out.

In order to check illegal immigration and infiltration from Bangladesh, the Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged approach including the following:

(i) Construction of border fencing, roads and floodlighting.

(ii) Round the clock surveillance of the borders by the Border Security Force.

(iii) Setting up of additional 383 Border Out Posts (BOPs) along Indo-Bangladesh Border to reduce the inter BOP distance for effective border domination.

(iv) Induction of hi-tech surveillance equipment including night vision devices.

In addition, powers have been delegated to the State Governments under Section 3(2)9(c) of the Foreigners' Act, 1946 to detect and deport illegally staying foreign nationals.

(c) & (d): Fencing over a length of 2635 Km has been completed, out of the sanctioned 3436 Km.The Government is according both priority and greater focus to expedite the completion of fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh Border.The remaining sanctioned fencing works are scheduled to be completed by 31st arch, 2010.